

Community Wellness

The Springfield community and economy owe much of their robust health to the city's medical arts. Six area hospitals, more than 800 physicians and an array of clinics provide care in every American Medical Association specialty. Springfield's health care industry employs 20,000 people with an economic impact of nearly \$3 billion annually.

Springfield's "Medical Mile" is home to two of the nation's top integrated health care networks—CoxHealth and St. John's Health System—numerous outpatient surgical centers, mental health facilities, home health care services, long-term nursing facilities, and health information and education resources. State-of-the-art technology and compassionate care combine to make Springfield a regional hub for health care.

Pre-med programs at Drury, Evangel and SMSU as well as SMSU's Ozark Public Health Institute, add to the overall health care culture. In addition, the Springfield/Greene County Health Department is widely recognized as an innovative public health organization.

Unfortunately, this wealth of medical resources is not available to all our citizens. According to a 2004 Advocates for a Healthy Community, Inc., report, many low-income people lack access to necessary dental and health care. Another major problem in our community is child abuse rates that are nearly double the state average.




Red Flag: Access to Dental Care

According to Advocates for a Healthy Community, Inc., access to dental care, particularly for Medicaid-insured children, is extremely limited. Dental services in Greene County are provided by 120.8 FTE dentists (1:1990) for the general population. However, for the poor (those covered by Medicaid, uninsured and in poverty) the FTE is 4.2 for a ratio of 1:29,012. HRSA has identified Greene County as short 14.6 FTE dentists to provide services to low-income patients.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT CARD

Health

	Greene Co. 2002	5 yr. mean	Trend	Missouri
Low Birth Weight	6.7	5.9	NC	8.1
Mothers as Medicaid Participants (as a percent of total live births)	49.6	45.5	UP	44.3
First Trimester Prenatal Care	88.9	89.0	NC	86
Births to Mothers Under 18 (as a percent of total live births)	4.4	4.1	UP	4.7
Mothers Smoking During Pregnancy (as a percent of pregnant women)	19.2	19.2	NC	18.1
 Child Abuse and Neglect (rate per 1000 children)	11.4	14.3	Down	6.9
Immunization Rate (percentage of children, public clinics)	92.2	91.6	NC	77.8
Infant Death (per 1000 live births)	7.5	7.0	UP	8.5
Communicable Disease (incidence per 100,000 population)				
Gonorrhea	96.6	67.0	UP	160.0
Tuberculosis	2.9	4.2	Down	2.4
HIV	11.5	6.7	UP	5.6
Deaths (crude rate, per 100,000 population)				
Cardiovascular Disease	350.1	389.4	Down	352.2
Lung Cancer	61.2	72.6	Down	62.9
Breast Cancer	16.0	14.6	UP	14.7
Motor Vehicle Crashes	16.8	15.7	UP	20.5
Suicide	14.0	13.0	UP	12.0
Children Receiving Serious Emotional Disturbance Mental Health Services	3.8%		UP	2.6%

(Source: Springfield Greene County Health Dept 2004 Community Health Report Card, except for the child mental health statistic which is from Missouri Kids Count 2003 Data Book reporting 2002 Data.)

Strengths: Decreases in deaths from cardiovascular disease and lung cancer. Decrease in child abuse and neglect statistic but it's still much higher than the state number. Child immunization rates remain much higher than the state.

Weaknesses: Communicable diseases, HIV and gonorrhea are up. Infant deaths have increased. Breast cancer, motor vehicle deaths, and suicide are all up as well. Mothers as Medicaid recipients and mothers under 18 years old have increased.

Source: Springfield/Greene County Health Department